

Missouri Chapter News

Walnut Council: Growing Walnut and Other Fine Hardwoods



A Word from the President:

Bob Ball



Change in Chapter Leadership

I have not endured months of campaigning and political debating and arguing with the media, no inauguration nor late night galas. But, we do have change in the

Missouri Chapter leadership. I am very pleased this action was not brought about by our members demanding we take new courses of action, plus abolishing our bylaws. Instead, we simply had a vacancy when Dennis Evans opted to step down after serving two terms as President feeling it was time for someone else to step forward. I was nominated, there was an election, and I won! Likewise, David Boyt was elected as Vice President. No hanging chads; no demand for a recall.

The Missouri Chapter Executive Committee now consists of: Bob Ball, President, David Boyt, President-elect, Fred Crouse, Treasurer, Aaron Twombly, Secretary and Dennis Evans, Past President. We will do our best to lead our Chapter, but we do need guidance from the people...our members. I encourage anyone seeking a more active role in our Chapter to step forward *so we can begin involving you now in planning our Chapter activities.*

Over the past year several Chapter leaders were active participants in a strategy session where we took a hard look at where our members come from, we looked at our Mission, Our Priorities, and Our Outreach to prospective members. Growing our membership by reaching out to woodland landowners and others reliant on our forest resources is a high priority of the Chapter.

Although we had lots of excellent ideas and comments during our strategy sessions, more input is always welcome. Your suggestions will help us better meet the needs of our membership and maybe a percentage of the

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Missouri Woodland Conference

Tuesday, April 4th—Wednesday, April 5th, 2017

Missouri Farm Bureau

701 South Country Club Dr., Jefferson City

Target Audience

Woodland landowners, foresters, forest products industry, agency resource specialists, soil and water conservation district staff, and students in natural resources

Sponsors

Missouri Chapter – Walnut Council, Missouri Nut Growers Association, Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri Tree Farm Committee, Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri

Program

Both days will be in a classroom setting listening to professionals and landowners speaking on a variety of woodland management topics from tree planting, why care about oaks, ensuring your legacy, tools and equipment, mapping your land, forestland succession planning, the revised Missouri Forestry Tax Law and so much more. The program will be provided via email or regular mail to all those inquiring, plus it will be posted at the Missouri Chapter – Walnut Council website.

Registration

Details will follow in late January.

Woodland Management TIPS

Winterizing & Planning for Spring Planting

The following tips are offered by Scott Brundage, Consulting Forester and long-time Chapter member. Composed by Bob Ball

Winterizing Tips

- Many herbicides should NOT be stored where they can be exposed to low temperatures. The definition of "low" varies greatly by product. Refer to the "Storage and Disposal" section of your herbicide label for "Pesticide Storage" requirements. For example, many products state "Store above 28 degrees F or agitate before use." "Tomahawk", a generic glyphosate product, says "store above 10 F to prevent crystallization". The active ingredients can precipitate out or even crystalize in very cold temperatures and must then be thoroughly agitated before using. Also, it's interesting to note the effectiveness of Roundup and glyphosate decreases with temperatures below 50-60 degrees! Scott suggests, "for what we pay for these chemicals, follow label storage and use requirements to ensure the herbicides are effective when needed." Always thoroughly agitate the containers before mixing and then properly dispose empty containers.
- Remember to properly clean and store your spray equipment in accordance with the user manual guidelines, AND be sure they are completely drained and stored upside down (for back-pack sprayers) to ensure they drain completely. Disconnect the spray hose from the tank, remove the spray tip, and squeeze the trigger to ensure there is no water trapped in the spray wand or the small pressure tank within the spray tank. Leave the lid off the tank for 1 or 2 days to be sure sprayer is completely dry before winter storage in an unheated building. Even consider adding a few ounces of RV grade antifreeze to winterize sprayers stored where they are subject to freezing.
- Small engines that may not be used for a period need some attention too. Dealers recommend adding a product like "Sta-Bil" to the fuel tank to stabilize the fuel keeping it from breaking down, preventing the formation of gum, varnish and rust, and ensuring quick starts. One option is to use a product like Stihl's "MotoMix" that is a pre-mix of stabilized fuel of 92 octane with a 50:1 gas to oil mix. It contains no ethanol. Although the "MotoMix" option (or something

comparable) is recommended by most small engine dealers, they also acknowledge this product is a more costly option versus using a traditional fuel mix. If you opt to mix your own fuel for your chainsaw, dealers strongly suggest using the Stihl "HP Ultra" engine oil (silver, plastic bottle) (or a similar synthetic oil) versus the traditional engine oil in the orange bottle. Regardless of the brand, these synthetic oils, although more expensive, are better for small engines.

Spring Planting Tips

Now is also the time to begin planning and ordering supplies for spring tree planting. One product to consider adding into your plan is a root dip. Mycorrhizal fungi promote rapid root development by colonizing roots. They are ideal for landscape trees and shrubs and forestry applications as well. Inoculate the bare roots of plants before planting. Root dips contain a co-polymer gel which absorbs and holds water to keep plant roots from drying out along with beneficial bacteria. One product is sold by [Forestry Suppliers](#) (#92964). A direct link to the website of the [company](#) that produces the Diehard Root Dip has a great deal of information about it and related products.

A second product to consider including in your planning is a repellent for deer. One company, Plantskydd is recommended by many foresters. Their website is also informative. Typically, browse damage appears to be the worst in the winter and these repellents only last a few months. Professional planting crews sometimes dip the tops of seedlings into a repellent at planting time and then follow-up with a spray in the fall. Gauge the frequency of treatment based on rainfall. A percent of surface applied repellents is washed off leaf surfaces with each rainfall.



Adding stabilizers to small engines is one step in winterizing your tools.

Hacking Hatchet

Written by Bob Ball

Until now I have not been a proponent of the “hack and squirt” method of treating woody stems with herbicides. This bias has been due largely to the fact every hatchet or ax I tried either felt too cumbersome in my hands, lacked a solid striking punch or it was usually dull from being knocked around in my tool box. On our farm in Ohio we have a lot of American beech trees on my “need to kill” list. Memories of banging on the side of a beech tree with a dull hatchet discouraged me over the years from being a hack and squirt fan...until now.

After watching Consulting Forester, Matt Arndt, during his “timber stand improvement” demonstration at the Phil Moore farm at our fall field day, I now have a new attitude about Hack and Squirt. What made me change my mind? Matt’s hatchet!

The USDA Forest Service publication “*Manual Herbicide Application Methods for Managing Vegetation in Appalachian Hardwood Forests*” provides an overview off the four methods to treat woody stems and “stem injection” is one of those methods. Hack and Squirt can be very effective, but it seems to me the other three commonly used methods: basal spray, cut-stump treatment and foliar spray are more commonly used by our chapter members.

Having the right equipment is key regardless of the method used. With Hack and Squirt success is largely based on the hatchet although it is also important to use a herbicide spray bottle you can depend on that attaches to your belt. It is important the hatchet blade is sharp “with a ground-down bit 1.75 inches wide” to concentrate your blows to a narrower width effectively making it easier to get the depth in each chop to reach the cambium layer.

Rather than buying a traditional width hatchet blade then spending a lot of time grinding down a perfectly good blade, I opted to follow Matt’s lead and purchase the 14” Fiskars X7 hatchet which they claim “chops up to 3x deeper” by providing “more power at impact”. The add also claims the hatchet has a “superior blade design, optimum blade geometry, ultra-sharp edge and low-friction surface”. Plus, it has a “virtually unbreakable, stronger-than-steel

FiberComp handle”. The best part of their advertisement is “Full Lifetime Warranty”. For most of us, that statement may be the most significant. Keep your receipt!

I ordered by Fiskars hatchet from Amazon with a price of \$24, and it comes with a hard, plastic sheath to protect the blade. Fiskars tools are available at many outdoor and hardware stores. There are other brands with similar blade features, but they are much more expensive. For our typical use this Fiskars hatchet is hard to match. I do dispute their claim that it has an “ultra-sharp edge”. Plan on doing



some initial filing to achieve the edge you want then maintaining that edge weekly during heavy use.



Those more serious about “hack and squirt” often use a “hypo-hatchet” that injects the herbicide into the cambium layer with each strike. The hatchet is connected to a back-pack spray tank of herbicide with a plastic hose allowing you to become very efficient chopping unwanted stems. The downside is the hypo-hatchet alone can cost \$450!

Obviously, successful hacking and squirting is more complex than using the right hatchet. Watch for a future article that describes timing to carry out this method, concerns with certain species of hardwoods, the number of “chops” needed to be effective, plus herbicides to use and techniques for applying the herbicides that will kill the target species, minimize the use of chemical while also minimizing your exposure to those chemicals.

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state's woodland landowners. We value your thoughts about ways to make our Chapter more meaningful to you and others. Do not hesitate to suggest ways we can provide timely information about managing black walnut and other fine hardwoods.

Now that I have moved into the role of President, my Newsletter Editor responsibilities transitioned over to Aaron Twombly. Aaron also serves as our Secretary, so he is awfully busy. This January Chapter newsletter was prepared by Aaron. We hope you find it informative.

Ask our Members – New Member Benefit!

A great suggestion offered during our fall field day was providing a means for our members to submit questions about woodland management or Walnut Council online then getting feedback from selected members. The Executive Committee feels that is a terrific idea, but please stick to woodland management avoiding sports, politics, food & beverages, criminal legal advice or family counseling! Simply address your question(s) to: mowalnutcouncil@gmail.com Selected members will be asked to respond to you soon!

And the Winner is...

Long time Walnut Council member Jim Ball will be recognized as the 2016 Tree Farmer of the Year. Ball has been in the Tree Farm program for over 11 years and manages approximately 150 acres of natural timber and 240 acres of planted all in Caldwell county. Congratulations Jim!



Your Chapter Leadership

Executive Council

President: Bob Ball

President-elect: David Boyt

Treasurer: Fred Crouse

Secretary: Aaron Twombly

Immediate Past-President: Dennis Evans

Additional Roles

Newsletter Editor: Aaron Twombly

Primary Contact on Woodland Pests & Diseases:
Harlan Palm

Regional Land Representatives

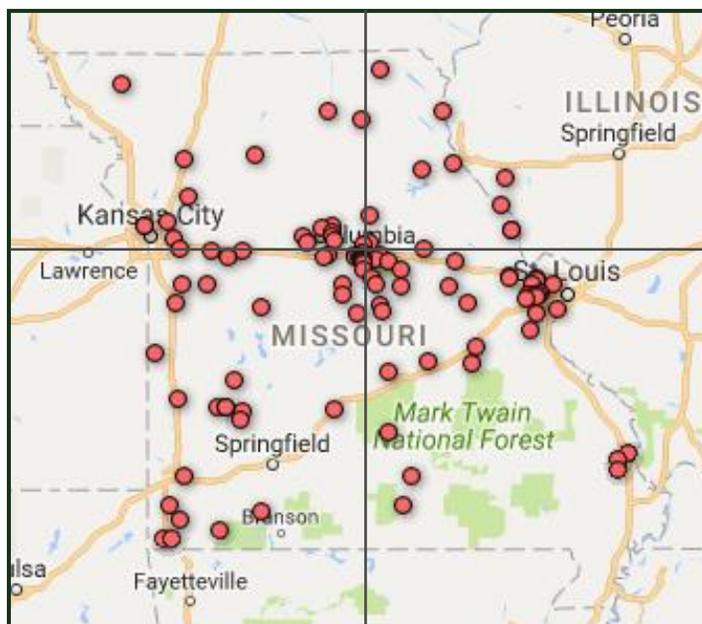
The Missouri Chapter bylaws call for four regional land representatives to help connect with land owners and organize field days. The four regions are divided by the intersections of I-70 and Hwy 63. E-mail MoWalnutCouncil@gmail.com to contact a representative for your region about hosting a future field day. The current representatives are:

NW: Jim Ball

NE: Ted Cox

SW: Matthew Renkoski

SE: Joe & Wendy Akers



The four regions of the state and all in-state members

About Missouri Chapter News

Missouri Chapter News is distributed to members of the Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council. The newsletter is intended to keep members informed about timely events while also distributing general information about the management of fine hardwoods. Members are encouraged to provide feedback about this outreach approach and suggest topics for future issues. Comments and suggestions can be emailed to [Aaron Twombly](mailto:Aaron.Twombly), Chapter Secretary. During the year we will also distribute "technical articles" on specific topics of interest to woodland landowners. Both the newsletters and technical articles will be archived at our [chapter website](#).